



thecollegian

INDEPENDENT VOICE FOR KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

VOL. 118 NO. 149

kstatecollegian.com



Tomorrow:
High: 40 °F
Low: 64 °F



Sunday:
High: 64 °F
Low: 47 °F

02

The best for last
Enjoy our final Best Of
responses this semester
— just for you

03

Documenting real life
Meadowlark Home
was the setting of a
student documentary

04

Critical cuts
Read why the most
recent change in the
RCPD budget is bogus



Three years later: a father's sacrifice



Emily DeShazer | Collegian

Collegian staff writer **Kelly McHugh** is graduating May 18, three years to the day after her father, Col. John M. McHugh, was killed in action on his way to a NATO peace conference in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Kelly McHugh
staff writer

For graduating seniors at Kansas State University, May 18, 2013, will mean many things.

It will mean new beginnings, new careers and new chapters to fill.

It will mean smiling faces, flashbacks to memories made and sad goodbyes, all at the same time.

And while I'll be joining all the other K-State seniors graduating in Bramlage Coliseum, the date May 18, to me, will forever mean something completely different.

For me, it will be the mark of how far I've come in exactly three years.

Three years ago, on May 18, 2010, during finals week of my freshman year of college, moving forward with my life became the last thing I wanted to think about.

Moving forward sounded like an impossible task.

On May 18, 2010, my father, Col. John M. McHugh, was killed in action in Kabul, Afghanistan. He had served 24 years in the United States Army.

A suicide bomber took the lives of 18 people that morning after driving his Toyota minibus packed with explosives into a U.S. military convoy. Five American soldiers, including my father, were killed, along with a Canadian colonel. The convoy was on its way to a NATO peace conference in Afghanistan's capitol building.

My dad wasn't deployed. He was only supposed to be in Afghanistan for two weeks.

While I've never known any other life than being a military child growing up, tragedy always felt so far away from me.

I had never personally known someone killed in action.

My dad was a West Point graduate, a helicopter pilot throughout the 1990s and a colonel in the United States Army. As he moved up the ranks in the Army, his job became more command-oriented. Although I had friends whose parents served multiple deployments, my dad was only deployed once, to Kuwait in 2007-08.

I used to think I had lived the



photo by Mengyi Wang

Kelly McHugh (right) stands with K-State alum **Josh Harrison** (left) at her father's grave in Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery. As McHugh writes, she and Harrison are united by their fathers' deaths, which occurred three years apart, while their fathers are separated in the cemetery by just three graves.

ultimate "Army brat" life when he would talk about retiring after 25 years in the service.

It's an adventurous lifestyle for a kid — moving all the time, seeing other countries and cultures through a child's eyes and making new friends at every duty station — but it's a lifestyle that reinforces the importance of independence, patriotism and family bonds from an early age.

I mean, I did live in 12 different houses before I graduated from high school. What more could an Army kid possibly go through, right?

I learned the hard way exactly what more an Army kid could go through — taking that step from a proud Army daughter to an even prouder Gold Star daughter.

My Story

My family lived on post at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., when my dad was killed.

I graduated from high school in 2009 in Carlisle, Pa., where my family was stationed for just 10 months while my dad attended the U.S. Army War College. The week after my high school graduation, we packed up and moved to Kansas.

My dad worked for the Battle Command Training Program at Fort Leavenworth. He spent his first year there going on the road for a few weeks out of every month to visit different military facilities and work with their training programs.

Almost a year after we moved to Fort Leavenworth, in May 2010, he left for a two-week visit to Afghanistan.

I worked at Fort Leavenworth's indoor pool about a mile away from my house. That morning I was scheduled to teach swim lessons, and then I got a text from my younger sister:

"Kelly, you need to come home now."

I put my phone down and got back to work. What could possibly be going on that they'd want me to just up and leave?

That text was followed by another text from my sister, then one from my mom. Finally, my mom called. The strangest thing about the phone call was that my mom sounded completely calm.

"You need to leave work," she said. "Now."

"I'll be back in 30 minutes," I said to my boss and apologized as I walked out the glass double doors.

I didn't return to work that day.

The car ride home was usually only a three-minute trip, but for some reason I took a longer route. I wanted to give myself time to think about what could be going on back at my house.

Looking back on it now, I think subconsciously I just wanted a few more minutes of my normal life before a new reality struck.

When I finally turned down my street and saw our driveway, everything hit me at once. As an Army daughter, I knew exactly what it meant that two unfamiliar cars were parked in my driveway.

The cars' two distinct license plates still haunt me today. One said U.S. GOVERNMENT. I pulled in behind the other car — my pastor's car. Written in big, bold letters on its license plate was one word — PRAY.

Three years later, I can't see that work or look at a government license plate without being brought back to that moment in my life.

In April 2010, my older brother, U.S. Army Warrant Officer Michael McHugh, was deployed to Iraq with a unit out of Fort Riley. I braced myself for the worst as I got out of my car and prepared myself for the

Dear Mom: this eulogy is for you

David Chartrand
guest writer

I am 60 years old but I still hear a voice inside my head saying, "Don't go out in the cold with wet hair," and, "Look people in the eye when you talk to them."

My mother was not a woman of nuance. Her social calculus held that the difference between opinion and advice was the difference between flower bed and flower. Why dig a garden if you don't intend to plant? What good is voice not raised? Lacking visible means of escape — trapped beside her in a restaurant booth, for example — the more likely you became her congregation of one. As if the voice weren't enough, she punctuated the important stuff by repeatedly jabbing her elbow into your side.

You didn't have to agree with my mom, but you had to listen. Especially when she walked in the door after attending a funeral service.

"All those nice things people say about you when you die," she said, with an elbow jab for emphasis. "Hell's bells, they ought to say those things while you're still alive."

My mom said "hell's bells" a lot. I have no idea what it means or why there would be bells in hell. Maybe God uses ringing bells to remind us to say nice things about the living. Or maybe he uses elbow jabs to the rib cage.

Just to be safe, I've begun jotting notes. Here's a peek at what I plan to say on the day we lay my mother to rest. Subject to change without notice.

They say my mother is gone but that's not true.

I can see her whenever I want. I close my eyes and there she is. She's tossing her head back and laughing louder than everyone else in the room. She's on the phone calling my aunts

MOM | pg. 6

Internat'l news briefs

Mike Stanton
assistant news editor

Prosecutor to pursue aggravated murder charges against Cleveland kidnapper

According to Cleveland's The Plain Dealer, the Cuyahoga County prosecutor will seek aggravated murder charges against Ariel Castro, who is accused of abducting three women and holding them against their will in his home for at least a decade. Castro also allegedly induced miscarriages in one of the women by starving her and repeatedly punching her in the stomach after impregnating her on numerous occasions.

The women, Amanda Berry, Gina DeJesus and Michelle Knight, were abducted on separate occasions at ages 16, 13 and 21 years old near the Cleveland home inside which they have lived for the past 10 years. One of the women, Berry, gave birth to a child while in captivity. Castro, who was arrested Wednesday, faces four counts of kidnapping and three counts of rape in addition to the aggravated murder charges and could face additional charges. He could reportedly face the death penalty.

The women escaped Tuesday when Berry forced open the front door and called police with the assistance of a neighbor. Castro was arrested later that day, along with his brothers Pedro and Onil Castro, who were not charged in connection with the abductions.

Thieves steal \$45 million in global ATM heist

According to a Thursday

BRIEFS | pg. 6

Project provides extra \$50k to start new community gardens

Melanie Thomas
staff writer

This year's applicants for the Kansas Community Gardens Project grants have a better chance to start a new community garden than in the past, as nearly \$150,000 in grants is available to give away, a \$50,000 increase from last year.

Thirty-five community gardens across Kansas were chosen to receive grants for startup this year as part of a three-year initiative by the Kansas Community Gardens Project. It is a cooperative effort between the Kansas Health Foundation and K-State Research and Extension, and those involved in the project hope to increase the number of gardens next year, said Cheryl Boyer, assistant professor of horticulture and extension specialist with K-State Research and Extension.

Initially, the Kansas Community Gardens Project had dedicated \$100,000 per year in grants for the three-year initiative, but this year an additional \$50,000 was added, and the project will provide \$150,000 in grants next year as well, according to Evelyn Neier, K-State Research and Extension 4-H Youth Development garden specialist.

"Originally we had budgeted dollars for additional administrative and marketing expenses," said Steve Coen, Kansas Health Foundation president and CEO. "But the efficiency with which K-State Research and Extension has managed the grant allowed us to instead allocate those funds for increased grant making directly to community gardens."

Community gardens have been around Kansas for years, and their popularity has been growing over the past



Russell Edem | Collegian

The Kansas Community Gardens Project, funded by the Kansas Health Foundation and K-State Research and Extension, is providing an extra \$50,000 for community gardens in Kansas. The project had previously committed \$100,000 in grants for the three-year initiative.

few years due to their numerous benefits, Neier said.

"They help a lot of folks who might not have a place to garden," Neier said. "It's a way for families to really stretch their dollars and an opportunity to be active and outdoors."

Community gardening provides the opportunity for people in "food deserts" — areas that don't have nearby access to grocery stores — to grow their own fresh

fruits and vegetables, Boyer said.

"About 50 percent of the gardens we funded were in food deserts, so we feel that we've made a huge difference in food deserts across the state," Boyer said.

Community gardens do not just provide the benefit of a place to garden if one would not ordinarily be available, such as in an urban environment, Boyer said.

"It's a great deal," Boyer said. "They

provide the tools, water, sheds and equipment like tillers as part of the grant."

The gardens provide more than just food, though, Neier said. They also provide a sense of community pride and an activity that people can do for years to come.

"Gardening is something you can do for your whole lifespan," Neier said. "You might not know any 80-, 90-year-old football players, but a lot of people know 80-, 90-year-old gardeners."

The goal of the Kansas Community Gardens Project, Boyer said, is to provide monetary support to get new community gardens started and information to help these gardens to be successful in the long run.

"What we want is for the gardens to be standing alone and flourishing in 10 years without our help," Boyer said. "We want them to be self-supporting in 10 years."

Manhattan has had community gardens since 1978, Boyer said. Currently, there are two community gardens in Manhattan, on Riley Lane and on Collins Lane.

K-State will be hosting the Kansas Community Garden Conference this summer from July 8-9. The conference will be an excellent opportunity to learn about gardening and the process of starting and establishing a community garden, Neier said. There will even be an informational session on applying for a grant to start a garden next year.

To learn more about the conference, community garden grants and community gardening, as well as a detailed listing of this year's grant winners, visit kansascommunitygardens.org.

Call

776-5577



ACROSS

1 TGIF part

4 Bing's buddy

7 Block the flow

12 Just out

13 "Hail!"

14 Become one

15 Meadow

16 High-flying tourist

18 \$ dispenser

19 Soviet cooperative

20 Genius

22 Decorate Easter eggs

23 Boast

27 Discoverer's cry

29 Weaken, in a way

31 Nary a soul

34 Star in Orion's left foot

35 "Now" or "never"

37 Drench

38 TV dinner veggies

39 "Go, team!"

41 Wild and crazy

45 Rescues

47 "The Raven" writer

48 TV show for entrepreneurial hopefuls

52 Transgression

53 Asian nation

54 Hockey surface

55 Superlative ending

56 That is (Lat.)

57 "Ben-Hur" author

Wallace

58 Vast expanse

DOWN

1 Extended family member

2 "Choppers"

3 Hindu ascetic

4 Mexican peninsula

5 Exaggerate

6 White or Grable

7 One-on-one fight

8 Pismire

9 Bay State sch.

10 Multi-purpose truck

11 Apiece

17 Start a garden

21 Regions

23 All-out attack

24 Carpet

25 Consumed

26 Solidify

28 That woman

30 Anger

31 Siesta

32 Praise in verse

33 Eggs

36 Unruly kid?

37 From what place

40 Use

42 Church recesses

43 Din

44 Busy-body

45 Old card game

46 Distort

48 Tackle moguls

49 Scuttle

50 Exist

51 Scale notes

Solution time: 25 mins.

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Yesterday's answer 5-10

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56						57				58			

the

FOURUM®

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The Fourum is a quirky view of campus life in voices from the K-State community. Positive and humorous comments are selected for publication by the Collegian marketing staff.

If we have hippie liberals, bless their hearts, running the Collegian, then Kansas isn't purely a red state.

You're right, The Collegian *is* such a liberal rag! I mean, I haven't read any of the articles or opinion pieces or anything; I just read the comics, y'know?

The girl behind me is whispering and I'm pretty sure it's in parseltongue.

Man, how do SO MANY fingerprints get on the computer screen? Is there someone who just goes around smudging them all on purpose? Gross!

Editor's note: To submit your Fourum contribution, call or text 785-260-0207 or email thefourum@kstatecollegian.com. Your e-mail address or phone number is logged but not published.

Logan's Run | By Aaron Logan

WOW, WE ARE FINALLY GRADUATING!

SO WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU? GOT A CAREER LINED UP?

I DON'T NEED TO. YOU ALREADY BROUGHT HOME MY GOLDEN TICKET-- CAT!

ERR...

C'MON. CATS RULE THE INTERNET. WE JUST HAVE TO GET HER TO DO SOMETHING FUNNY OR STRANGE!

THEN PUT IT ON YOUTUBE, MAKE A FEW T-SHIRTS AND PROFIT!

SOOO. COLLEGE WAS FOR...WHAT?

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Collegian welcomes your letters. We reserve the right to edit submitted letters for clarity, accuracy, space and relevance. A letter intended for publication should be no longer than 350 words and must refer to an article that appeared in the Collegian within the last 10 issues. It must include the author's first and last name, year in school and major. If you are a graduate of K-State, the letter should include your year(s) of graduation and must include the city and state where you live. For a letter to be considered, it must include a phone number where you can be contacted. The number will not be published. Letters can be sent to letters@kstatecollegian.com. Letters may be rejected if they contain abusive content, lack timeliness, contain vulgarity, profanity or falsehood, promote personal and commercial announcements, repeat comments of letters printed in other issues or contain attachments. The Collegian does not publish open letters, third-party letters or letters that have been sent to other publications or people.

CORRECTIONS

If you see something that should be corrected or clarified, call managing editor Darrington Clark at 785-532-6556 or email news@kstatecollegian.com.

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THE BEST OF THE FOURUM

That moment when you see an acquaintance on campus and you need to quickly decide whether to acknowledge their existence or not.

--- Never halfway commit. Either go full arm wave, or do not acknowledge.

It's not a college campus without some hipsters slack-lining and kicking a hacky sack.

--- But if it were slack-lining while kicking a hacky sack, it would be a circus. Fine line here.

I don't see how Algebra is a weed out-class. It's a 100 level class, and believe it or not, there are applicable skills you can pick up from it.

--- I'm sure someone has been kicked out for weed.

I swear the Collegian is ran by a bunch of liberal hippies. Can we get some majority views presented in here. We live in Kansas, a purely red state.

--- Did you mean: I swear the Collegian is run by a bunch of liberal hippies?

Really, Collegian? The only photo you could find for warm outdoor activities is a guy canoeing in a hoodie and gloves?

--- It was that or a squirrel eating a snow-covered acorn.

THE BLOTTER

ARREST REPORTS

Wednesday, May 8

Stephen Christopher Cashore, of the 1000 block of 12th Street, was booked for probation violation. Bond was set at \$2,000.

Malik Jesse Heath, of Goodnow Hall, was booked for unlawful possession of hallucinogens. Bond was set at \$1,000.

Tracy Donsha French, of the 1600 block of Hillcrest Drive, was booked for unlawful possession of hallucinogens. Bond was set at \$1,000.

Renee Elizabeth Nemeth, of the 3100 block of Heritage Court, was booked for three counts of probation violation. Bond was set at \$25,000.

Joshua Kyle Davies, of the 3200 block of Cardinal Lane, was booked for probation violation and failure to appear. Bond was set at \$12,500.

James Edward Smith Jr., of Junction City, was booked for sale, distribution or cultivation of opiates or narcotics. Bond was set at \$15,000.

Jordan Suzanne Hofman, of the 900 block of Bluemont Avenue, was booked for driving with a canceled, suspended or revoked license. Bond was set at \$750.

Emerson Demetrius Johnson Jr., of Junction City, was booked for sale or distribution of hallucinogens or marijuana. No bond was listed.

Anthony Ray Smith, of Junction City, was booked for sale or distribution of a controlled substance or an analog. Bond was set at \$15,000.

Kenneth Wayne Bellamy Sr., of Junction City, was booked for sale or distribution of a controlled substance or an analog. Bond was set at \$20,000.

Walter Bernard Taylor, of the 1100 block of Colorado Street, was

BLOTTER | pg. 6

5-10

CRYPTOQUIP

C V A W D E V H W B Z V E A J H C H R T
E V O V J W U Z H Q Q V J V R X E I D R Z
E K E X V B O W J H V X H V E , H
E D F F I E V H ' B E X V J V I X K F H R T .
Yesterday's Cryptquip: UNHAPPY THAT THE WOOD WASN'T DYED ENOUGH, THE CARPENTER IN CHARGE ISSUED A RESTAINING ORDER.
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Students spend semester in retirement community

Melanie Thomas
staff writer

When most students get done with classes for the day, they return to their residence hall, apartment or house. But for a small group of K-State students this semester, "home" was a single apartment in Meadowlark Hills Retirement Community. As part of Michael Wesch's digital ethnography class, 10 students took turns living at the retirement community to learn more about another culture close to home and to gather video for a documentary film.

"We needed some kind of place that would be like a foreign culture to students, but could be right here in the community — a place where they could really understand what it's like to do ethnography," Wesch said.

As a community composed only of staff and elderly residents, Meadowlark offered Wesch's students the perfect opportunity. Wesch approached Meadowlark about the project, and the retirement community agreed to provide a room for the members of the class to share while studying the culture and compiling their documentary.

Two of the class's 10 students stayed in a room at Meadowlark at a time, alternating each week. During that week, the students spent their free time, including nights, at the retirement community.

"We move in and we try to learn everything that we can about the

people that live there and the culture that surrounds Meadowlark," said Jeni McDonald, senior in anthropology.

The project involved a lot of dedication, time and effort, said Emily Gerling, junior in anthropology.

"It's a full cultural immersion project, so you try to be there as much as you can," Gerling said.

For the students, trying to fit such a large and detailed project into an already busy schedule was ambitious and sometimes rather difficult, McDonald said.

"It's been stressful at times, trying to juggle a personal life, this project and school and work, but it's been great," McDonald said.

Despite the hard work, there were fun moments, too, McDonald said.

"There was one night we had dinner with one of the admin's grandmas and she was sitting next to one of the other students of the project, and she started petting his arm and singing him 'Soft Kitty,' [a poem from the television show 'The Big Bang Theory'] and that probably was my favorite night, other than we did karaoke one night," McDonald said.

McDonald said that while there were a few Meadowlark residents who were resistant to the project, most were very welcoming and excited to help out and get to know the students. Overall, she said, the project gave her a lot of insight into the field of anthropology and it was a very valuable experience.

"It was very important for me in anthropology to do something like this, to know what my options are," McDonald said. "This is more of a research project that grad students would do. It's a very ambitious undertaking for an undergraduate, and especially during a full semester."

Gerling also said the experience was influential for her. She ex-

plained that spending the semester at Meadowlark taught her about how, despite vast cultural differences, people still relate on many levels.

"Our society has this typical view of elderly people, you know, that once you stop working you're done and you don't do anything anymore, but these people ... still have lives and they're still living,"

Gerling said. "I think for me in the end, finding out we're exactly the same and not as different as people make it out to be — that was really eye-opening."

The documentary chronicling their experiences is expected to be finished during finals week.

This is the seventh year the class has been offered, Wesch said, and each year, the class spends the se-

through the website. His students used the information they gleaned to create a video called "An Anthropological Introduction to YouTube," a production that was very successful, Wesch said.

According to Wesch, the students who participate in these projects have the talent to see the unique aspects of everyday life.

"They have dedication to understanding some cultural phenomenon and then conveying it in some new and interesting way," Wesch said. "The No. 1 thing we try to do is we try to achieve what we call profound authenticity, which is giving the viewer and the subject a sense of wonder about those things that otherwise seem mundane or trivial."

Capturing the culture of another group is very important, and something that is often looked over, Wesch said.

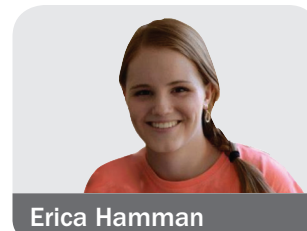
"It's like life just flows right past us and for the most part, we don't really take notice, and what you can do through digital video or any number of other artistic means is to actually draw attention to this blooming, bubbling complexity of life that is always always all around us," Wesch said. "I think in many ways, we seek ways to convey insight and to bring those insights to a larger audience."

The documentary will be shown next Tuesday, May 15 at 7 p.m. at Meadowlark, and all are welcome to attend the film and the following reception.

"It's like life just flows right past us and for the most part, we don't really take notice, and what you can do through digital video or any number of other artistic means is to actually draw attention to this blooming, bubbling complexity of life that is always always all around us. I think in many ways, we seek ways to convey insight and to bring those insights to a larger audience."

Michael Wesch
associate professor of sociology, anthropology and social work

Tips for studying abroad from Australia: use public transportation



Erica Hamman

Hello everyone! Now that the semester is coming to a close, some of you may be asking yourselves, "What should I do now?" One exciting possibility is the opportunity to study abroad in another country.

If you have been following my past articles, you have read some of my experiences. Now it is your turn. Everyone has the chance to make memories of their own in another country. This article is one that I would have liked to have read before I began my study abroad journey in Australia.

One thing that is important is to figure out is how you are going to get money while abroad. Transaction fees or wiring money can be expensive. If you are traveling to Australia, it is helpful to know that with a Bank of America account, you will not have to deal with extra fees because the bank Westpac is under the same global alliance.

Also, it is quite useful to have a cellphone when you first arrive. In a foreign country, your current cellphone may not work. If you have an iPhone, it helps to unlock it before you leave and get a cheap SIM card when you arrive. This can help you save money.

Another stop you should make is to get a myki card in Australia, which is necessary to use public transportation throughout the state of Victoria. This card does not cost very much, but you can be fined over \$200 for not using it when needed.

Finally, you just need to learn how to use as little money as you can if you are traveling to Australia. The U.S. dollar is worth less than the Australian dollar, which means your money doesn't go as far in the land down under. This means not going out to eat as much as you'd like and going grocery shopping instead.

Hopefully this article helps you and encourages you to take the leap into studying abroad.

Editor's Note: This article was completed as an assignment for a class in the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Courtesy photo

Erica Hamman, junior in biology, poses with a koala at an animal sanctuary in Australia. Hamman studied abroad in Melbourne, Australia this summer at Deakin University. Hamman said everyone who studies abroad should make sure to have a cellphone and to find out how to access bank accounts while in a foreign country.

@KSTATECOLLEGIAN

STAY UP-TO-DATE

"Captain Kirk"
is turning **50** on May 11th



Happy 50th Birthday, Kirk! Love, Noel, Tim & Andrew

For every Happy Birthday Tweet (@kstate_pres) or e-mail (kirks@ksu.edu), the Schulz family will donate \$1 (up to \$2,500) to the K-State 150th scholarship fund in Kirk's honor.

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Budget cuts for RCPD employee benefits unfair



Kaitlyn Dewell

Some of the least popular public figures in a college town are the law enforcement officers who keep students in check when we're out and about on the weekends, speeding to class in the morning or braving the roundabout at Fourth Street and Bluemont. However, despite their notoriety among students, the officers at the Riley County Police Department are still arguably some of the most important individuals that we come in contact with on any given day, thanks to their unselfish willingness to serve the citizens of the surrounding area.

According to a spreadsheet detailing the recent history of the RCPD budget, the approved department budgets for the past three years have been continually on the rise. This trend seems to continue for the proposed 2014 funds that apply to law enforcement total salaries, contractual services and commodities. Unfortunately, however, it appears that the portion of the budget that allots funds for employee benefits, such as workers' comp insurance, health insurance and unemployment compensation, will be taking a hit in the upcoming year.

A career in law enforcement is one of the most dangerous and demanding jobs in our country today. Police officers often spend extended hours on duty patrolling, sometimes up to 12 or more hours at a time, and due to their predictably unpredictable work day, could find themselves in a life-threatening situation at any given moment.

They deserve to be compensated for doing such work. With health care reform imminent and employee benefits being generally decreased across the board, it seems unfair that the individuals that we entrust our safety to on a daily basis should have their own health and safety

benefits hindered.

Thankfully, Matthew Droge, public information officer for RCPD, offered a consoling explanation about budget changes for concerned citizens in a phone interview last Tuesday.

"It's not really even a major cut. We're mostly staying the same," Droge said. "In 2012, the approved budget was about \$17 million. The 2013 approved budget was \$18,111, 200, and the proposed budget for 2014 is \$18,413,500. It seems like an increase as a whole, but really it's kind of a plateau."

So, while some numbers in the proposed budget suggest that they're increasing and others suggest a decrease, the department is really not experiencing any significant alteration of available funds, but rather a leveling of the allotted money.

Additionally, Droge maintained that the RCPD is set up in a way to help minimize the strenuous hours officers spend on the job, which may tend to downplay benefit deductions, even if only minimally.

"The police department is actually set up on a 'hot spot' policing theory," he said. "Basically, that means that crime happens in certain areas. There's a major part of our jurisdiction that actually doesn't have large amounts of crime, so what we'll do is put officers in certain areas where they'll be most effective. They can spend a short amount of time in that area and affect it for a longer amount of time."

While it's unfair to cut benefits for the men and women who serve our community as law enforcement officials every day, area residents will never have to question the dedication or reliability of our officers. Regardless of the employee benefits they obtain, the RCPD officers will continue their tireless work to ensure that we continue to receive the safety that we all enjoy as citizens of Riley County.

Kaitlyn Dewell is a junior in journalism and digital media. Please send comments to opinion@kstatecollegian.com.



Illustration by Parker Wilhelm

Abercrombie & Fitch makes huge blunder by excluding plus-size women from clothing line



Illustration by Aaron Logan



Jena Sauber

The road to self-acceptance can be difficult, made even more challenging by a flurry of conflicting media messages. Some say love yourself just the way you are, while others scream out that the only way to be beautiful is to be stick thin. Recently, clothing retailer Abercrombie & Fitch has come under fire for falling completely in the second category by alienating and degrading an entire part of the population in a completely inappropriate way.

Abercrombie is a men and women's clothing store, open since 1982, that caters to the preppy, 18- to 22-year-old demographic — but only if the women fit into a size between extra small and large in tops, or zero to 10 in pants. Their other brands include Abercrombie Kids, Hollister and Gilly Hicks. Abercrombie Kids is the only brand that carries extra-large clothing.

In a Wednesday article by Tim Walker in The Independent, retail industry analyst and co-author of "The New Rules of Retail" Robin Lewis calls out Abercrombie and its CEO Mike Jeffries for openly catering only to thin people. Based on Jeffries' previous statements, Lewis posits that Jeffries "doesn't want larger people shopping in his store, he wants thin and beautiful people."

The message that Abercrombie is sending men and women of all ages and weights is that fat people are unhappy, unpopular and undesirable. In truth, happiness, popularity and desirability are based on many, many more traits than just weight.

In a 2006 interview, Jeffries explained his "reasoning" behind catering exclusively to skinny people: "In every school there are the cool and popular kids, and then there are the not-so-cool kids. Candidly, we go after the cool kids. We go after the attractive All-American kid with a great attitude and a lot of friends. A lot of people don't belong [in our clothes], and they can't belong. Are

we exclusionary? Absolutely."

And. They. Can't. Belong. Where does a clothing retailer get off telling people — whole, beautiful, feeling people — where they belong? Belonging has nothing to do with size. It has to do with love. Love knows no boundaries.

Since when does being an attractive, All-American kid with a great attitude and lots of friends automatically mean you are also slender, as Abercrombie asserts? Historically, weight and attractiveness have been correlated in a positive fashion. Marilyn Monroe, perhaps the most famous sex symbol, was a size 12. Hollywood is full of plus-size actresses like Melissa McCarty and Queen Latifah.

How about All-American? According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, almost 70 percent of Americans ages 20 and older are either overweight or obese. If only skinny people are popular, who is liking all of these stick-thin people? The 30 percent of the "acceptable" population? No. People of average and above average weight, that's who. People who are nice. People who are friends, no matter their weight. Being All-American no longer means being a double zero. Good try, Abercrombie.

Lastly, since when do attitude and friends have anything to do with the number on the scale? People typically choose their friends based on similar interests, personality and niceness. I personally chose my friends because they make me happy, not because of what they look like or how much they weigh. Abercrombie has oversimplified and degraded the idea of popularity and happiness and completely missed the mark.

This marketing is harmful to thin girls, too. Abercrombie is stereotyping slender girls as shallow poles who do not want to be associated in any way with overweight people. This is not true.

By putting thinness on a pedestal, companies like Abercrombie are also putting out the idea that thin girls are boring string beans that can fit into any clothes they want and automatically look great. None of these things are true. Thin girls have just as many problems finding clothes that fit. I fit into the spectrum that Abercrombie finds "acceptable," but I would never feel comfortable in public in half of the clothes they think "we" should wear.

Of course, not every store can cater to every person of every size. That is why there are plus-size stores and children's stores. However, the reasons why Abercrombie has decided to draw the cut-off size at large is unacceptable. They are designating skinny people as superior to those who are overweight. Skinny should be no better or worse than fat when it comes to loving yourself.

Many people argue that being overweight often comes with health consequences, which is true. But Abercrombie's motives aren't to try to get people to be healthier. Their motivation is taking what they perceive to be the only option for beauty and trying to make more money. Yes, being overweight often comes with negative health consequences, but self-love and appreciation don't have to be casualties as well.

The only shred of credit I can give Jeffries is that he is attempting to do what all good business people do — protect his brand. However, he is going about it the wrong way. Protecting a brand the right way means using environmentally safe materials, making products in the United States or donating part of the proceeds to a charity. It does not mean alienating entire sections of the population.

This marketing strategy is not as successful as others. According to the National Retail Federation's list of the top 100 retailers as of 2011, clothing retailers Wal-Mart, Macy's, Kohl's, J.C. Penney, Gap, Nordstrom, Dillard's, Neiman Marcus, Michaels Stores and Burlington Coat Factory are all more monetarily successful than Abercrombie & Fitch, which comes in at No. 99. None of Abercrombie's sister brands even crack the top 100. All of these other retailers sell clothing bigger than a size large.

I have never not wanted to wear a brand of clothing because someone with a little extra love is wearing the same thing. This is a very junior high way of thinking, a way of thinking that most 18- to 22-year-old people should be beyond. I pick my clothing, and its brands, based on how the piece looks on me — not on how it looks on someone else.

I hope that you do the same.

Jena Sauber is a junior in journalism and mass communications. Please send comments to opinion@kstatecollegian.com.

friday, may 10, 2013



LET'S RENT

NEW HOME FINDER

For details see map.

■ Stadium

● West Campus

▲ Anderson/Seth Child

● Aggieville/Downtown

◆ East Campus

★ Close to town

110

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\$200 CASH BONUS. Sign a lease before May 15 on one of these fine, spacious, energy efficient four-bedroom, two bathroom apartments. All appliances included. Dishwasher, washer, dryer. www.wilksapts.com. Call 785-776-2102, text only 785-317-4701.

913 BLUEMONT three-bedroom \$930. 1530 McCain two-bedroom \$765. 714 Humboldt two-bedroom \$720. 1012 Fremont four-bedroom \$1140. Dishwasher, laundry facilities. **June or August.** No pets. **785-539-0866.**

ANDERSON VILLAGE 16th/ Anderson Ave. Newly remodeled. Walk to Class. Two bedrooms at \$850. Water and trash paid. Off-street parking. No smoking or pets. Wildcat Property Management **785-537-2332.**

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ANDERSON VILLAGE APARTMENTS. Newly remodeled, walk to class, two-bedrooms at \$865; dishwasher, off-street parking, no smoking or pets. Wildcat Property Management **785-537-2332.**

AUGUST PRE-LEASING. Several units close to KSU. **Washer, dryer, and dishwasher** included. www.wilksapts.com. Call 785-776-2102 or text 785-317-4701.

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THREE-BEDROOM ONE bath main floor apartment. 931 Vattier **August** lease, \$1350 water/ gas/ trash paid, washer/ dryer/ window air-conditioner, pet friendly. **785-539-4949** or thebrummetts@gmail.com.

TWO, THREE, four, and five-bedroom apartments available June 1 and August 1. Close to campus. Please call 785-456-5329.

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120

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NICE HOUSE on 1010 Leavenworth. June lease. Four-bedroom. Off-street parking, washer and dryer. Very clean. Daytime 785-292-4320, nights 785-292-4342.

ONE OR two-bedrooms available. Full kitchen and washer/ dryer. Close to campus. \$330/ month. Call Adam 316-650-2563.

ONE-BEDROOM HOUSES. Great location. Pet friendly. Call Alliance today. 785-539-2300. www.alliancemhk.com.

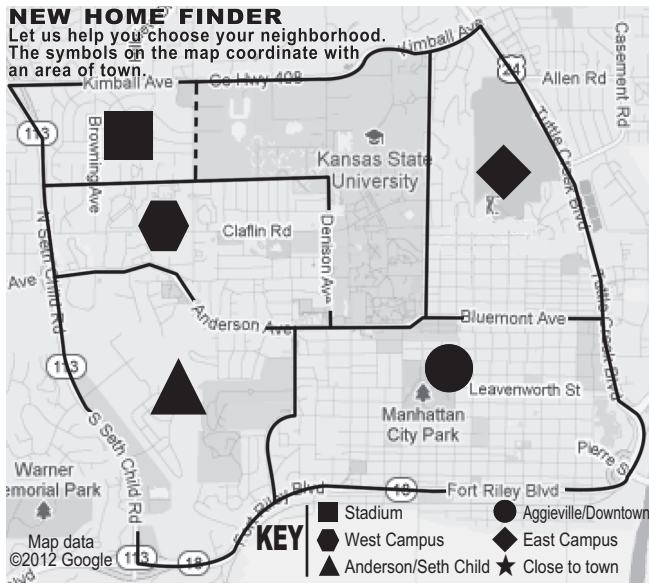
THREE-BEDROOM HOUSE. Great location. Pet friendly. Call Alliance today. 785-539-2300. www.alliancemhk.com.

TWO-BEDROOM HOUSES. Great location. Pet friendly. Call Alliance today. 785-539-2300. www.alliancemhk.com.

TWO-BEDROOM, ONE bath, washer/ dryer included. Large yard, private parking. 785-341-4496 tinyurl.com/2104-halls-landing.

HOUSES CLOSE TO CAMPUS FOR SALE. FOUR-BEDROOM houses and **DUPLEXES, STARTING AT \$99,900.** Call Larry at 785-317-7713, larry@cbmanhattan.com.

2004 REDMAN Imperial 16x80, two-bedroom/ two bath, updated, double carport, two decks, outdoor storage \$27,500. 316-641-4476.



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Bulletin Board

010

Announcements

CURRENTLY ENROLLED students: You can now order an eTranscript at no charge! Take advantage of fast, secure ordering and delivery of your Kansas State University transcript by logging into iSIS and selecting 'Order a Transcript' from the 'other academic' dropdown box in the iSIS Student Center.

LEARN TO FLY! K-State Flying Club has three airplanes and lowest rates. Call 785-562-6909 or visit www.ksu.edu/kscfc.

STAY UP to date with the 2013 Campus Phone Book. It includes campus and student contact information, a campus map, coupons, and more. Stop by Kedzie 103 and purchase your copy today for only \$6.95 plus tax.

105

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2000 College Heights
1114 Fremont
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Rent-Apt. Unfurnished

ONE-BEDROOM APARTMENT, \$650 June 1. Off-street parking, close to KSU and Aggieville. www.emeraldpropertymanagement.com. 785-587-9000.

ONE-BEDROOM BASEMENT apartment, walking distance to KSU and Aggieville. \$495, August 1. www.emeraldpropertymanagement.com. 785-587-9000.

ONE-BEDROOM. Some close to campus. June 1st lease. \$525 and up. Washer and Dryer. No pets, no smoking. Call 785-587-5731.

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THREE-BEDROOMS. ONE and a half bath plus washer/ dryer. Available now/ June/ August. 785-341-4024.

TWO, THREE, and four-bedroom apartments, close to campus and Aggieville. 785-539-5800. www.somersetsmgmtco.com.

TWO, THREE, and four-bedrooms available for August with great prices. Close to KSU Football Stadium and Bramlage. Close to KSU Sports Complex. Pool with sundeck. On-site laundry. 2420 Greenbriar Drive. 785-537-7007. woodway_apartments@yahoo.com.

TWO-BEDROOM APARTMENT, \$650, August 1. Off-street parking and on-site laundry. www.emeraldpropertymanagement.com. 785-587-9000.

TWO-BEDROOM DOWNSTAIRS apartment, 1010 Leavenworth. Washer and dryer, no pets, June lease. Daytime 785-292-4320, nights 785-292-4342.

TWO-BEDROOM, ONE bath, washer/ dryer included. Large yard, private parking. 785-341-4496 tinyurl.com/2104-halls-landing.

WALK TO KSU and Aggieville. One and two-bedroom apartments. \$480-\$670. June 1 and August 1. www.emeraldpropertymanagement.com. 785-587-9000.

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3-BD/2-BATH - \$900
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1620 McCAIN
4-BED/2-BATH - \$1,185

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CALL: 785-776-3804
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117

Rent-Condos & Townhouses

THREE-BEDROOM/ ONE BATH CONDO - 1510 COLLEGE AVE B4. Walk to KSU campus and close to Aggieville. Spacious living area, bedrooms, and closets. Washer and Dryer provided with unit. Also access to swimming pool. \$990/ month. Available August 1. www.alliancemhk.com. 785-539-2300.

120

Rent-Houses & Duplexes

2100 SQUARE-FEET. Four-bedroom, two bath. Two complete laundries. Dishwasher, game room. 920 Osage. \$1300/ month 785-539-8872 or 785-564-0078.

FOUR-BEDROOM HOUSES. Great location. Pet friendly. Call Alliance today. 785-539-2300. www.alliancemhk.com.

JUST A couple of blocks from campus. Three and four-bedroom for lease. \$975-\$1200 available immediately. 785-539-1554.

LARGE TWO-BEDROOM duplexes available for rent. Washer and dryer hook-ups with a full finished basement. We have units for June, July and immediate move-in. \$875-\$925 rent. Just off Seth Child and Claflin. Call 785-564-0439.

Job

Find a

Help Wanted Section

125

Sale-Houses

300

Employment/Careers

310

Help Wanted

135

Sale-Mobile Homes

2004 REDMAN Imperial 16x80, two-bedroom/ two bath, updated, double carport, two decks, outdoor storage \$27,500. 316-641-4476.

Have something for sale?

Sell it here!
Collegian Classifieds

100

Housing/Real Estate

105

Rent-Apt. Furnished

MANHATTAN CITY Ordinance 4814 assures every person equal opportunity in housing without distinction on account of race, sex, familial status, disability, religion, age, color, national origin or ancestry. Violations should be reported to the Director of Human Resources at City Hall, 785-587-2440.

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Rent-Apt. Unfurnished

MANHATTAN CITY Ordinance 4814 assures every person equal opportunity in housing without distinction on account of race, sex, familial status, disability, religion, age, color, national origin or ancestry. Violations should be reported to the Director of Human Resources at City Hall, 785-587-2440.

CHASE MANHATTAN

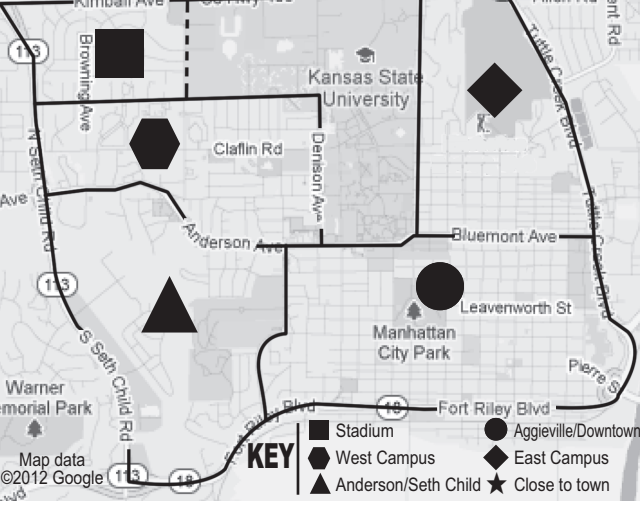
apartments. Four-bedroom, two bath available August 2013. Pool, fitness room, laundry, pets welcome! Close to campus. Call or stop by 1409 Chase Place, 785-776-3663. firstmanagementinc.com

ONE-BEDROOM

ACROSS the street from campus at 919 Denison. \$700 per month. Water, trash, and laundry paid. Granite countertops. Stainless appliances. August lease. www.fieldhousedev.com. 785-341-0185.

NEW HOME FINDER

Let us help you choose your neighborhood. The symbols on the map coordinate with an area of town.



120

Rent-Houses & Duplexes

145

Roommate Wanted

310

Help Wanted

165

Storage Space

200

Service Directory

205

Tutor

255

Other Services

300

Employment/Careers

310

Help Wanted

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Employment/Careers

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Help Wanted

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Employment/Careers

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BLOTTER | RCPD arrests

Continued from page 1

booked for sale or distribution of a controlled substance or an analog. Bond was set at \$50,000.

Theresa Annette Davidson, of the 2100 block of Sloan Street, was booked for failure to appear. Bond was set at \$100.

Doris E. M. Davis, of Junction City, was booked for sale or distribution of a controlled substance or an analog. Bond was set at \$70,000.

Blotter
See www.kstatecollegian.com for more of the blotter.

SGA hosts student forum about potential mobile application

Ashlee Mayo
contributing writer

The Student Governing Association held a brainstorming session over K-State’s effective and non-effective mobile application usage Thursday afternoon. The group encouraged students to share input about their use of K-State’s mobile technology. Among the many issues discussed, the group of students addressed issues and concerns with Zimbra Webmail and iSIS, as well as the problem of being overloaded with unwanted information through email.

Rob Caffey, director of mediated education, led the discussion with Post-it notes in hand. He asked the participants three questions: What are you able to do with your mobile devices that work well? What have you done that doesn’t work well? What do you want to be able to do? These three questions spurred an orderly discussion about what students need and expect from their mobile devices.

“I want everyone’s ideas to come out,” Caffey said. “Start small, think big.” The main concern for almost all participants was iSIS. Complications have always existed with iSIS, but K-State hopes to make it so that students are able to access it on their cellphones and tablets.

“I tried to access the course list, it’s terrible,” Caffey said. “iSIS navigation doesn’t work very well on mobile devices.”

According to the students who attended the session, there are so many facets of K-State’s mobile technology that some things become overlooked. For example, something that many participants were unaware of was that the Derby Dining Complex posts an online menu of what the cafeteria will be serving.

“Especially for food allergy people, it’s really helpful,” said Stephen Kucera, sophomore in applied music, about the online menu.

Students also said that they are over-

loaded by emails sent out from various K-State entities. Participants felt that they do not have time to read and decide what applies to them and what does not, so they eventually just ignore or simply delete a majority of the emails they receive without ever opening them.

K-State’s mobile home page was something that was liked by those attending. They claimed that it was similar to the desktop version and had the same concept. However, the home page search was deemed difficult to navigate by many. One of the mobile concepts praised by the students was “K-State Today.” Students said the feature is something they actually turn to for information about events on campus, but it also received criticism because it can be difficult to find from K-State’s home page.

“I wish it was easier to get to,” said Stephanie Hughes, sophomore in business administration. “I like the layout.”

Overall, the participants agreed that K-Staters need an overall “grand app”

that takes care of all of a student’s needs. It would include the ability to log into iSIS and check holds on accounts, easily enroll in classes on mobile devices and to find information about events on campus conveniently.

According to participants, students do not often know where to go to receive information easily. They want to be able to find it in a one-stop shop, which is where a single mobile application would be beneficial.

After the brainstorming session, SGA members said they found it to be helpful, and they said they hope to make some changes that will benefit all the students’ needs by collaborating with the Student Technology Committee and IT services.

Editor’s Note: This article was completed as an assignment for a class in the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

YEARS | ‘I will never completely heal. My life has just taken on a new normal’

Continued from page 1

bad news I expected about my deployed older brother.

As I walked past my house’s front windows, I saw two men wearing green uniforms. Two is Army protocol for bad news.

I walked in the front door and into an immediate embrace from my mom. I didn’t even look at the two soldiers. All I could think about was comforting her. I still thought the bad news would be about my brother.

Then while she was still hugging me, she said it. “It’s your dad.”

When I had walked in the door she was composed, but just saying those words brought her back to tears.

I walked to the staircase in our house and sat down. I was emotionally thrown for a loop, confused and angry.

It never crossed my mind that those cars parked in front of my house and the two men in green uniforms standing in my home could be there because of my dad.

My dad had only been in Afghanistan a few days. He was

only supposed to be there a short time longer.

He wasn’t even deployed.

The rest of the day was like living in some kind of a dream-land. I know that sounds cliché, but it’s exactly how it felt. My family wasn’t allowed to call or talk to anyone until my grandparents and my dad’s siblings, who all lived in New Jersey, were notified.

It was eerie. The sun was shining and it was a gorgeous spring day, but my family, my two younger sisters, my 5-year-old brother and my mom, just sat around our kitchen table. We were unable to tell anyone about what had happened, we didn’t know if my older brother had been notified yet and we still didn’t know any details other than that our dad was killed. No one said much.

I don’t remember much else about that day, or the days following. My brother was given the news while still in Iraq. It took three days for him to get back on U.S. soil to be reunited with us.

In my mind, the whole first week is lumped into a mix of

emotions and actions. I can’t place exact times or dates of when things happened. My entire family, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins, all came to Kansas for the funeral. Family friends and military friends came from around the world to be there. There were so many people that first week leading up to the funeral, so much going on, but I still felt numb to it all.

It didn’t feel real to me until I heard the 21-gun salute, until taps was played at my dad’s funeral in Leavenworth National Cemetery. That’s when it hit me. That’s when it became reality.

I was 18 years old when my dad was killed. Most children who have lost parents in the war have been much younger. I felt like I was one of a kind. But I soon found out I wasn’t the only college student suffering the loss of a parent killed in action.

Josh Harrison was a junior at Leavenworth High School on May 6, 2007, when his dad, Col. James Warren Harrison, was killed in Afghanistan. Col. Harrison was killed by an Afghan soldier in a shocking “green on

blue” incident.

The Harrison family was stationed at Fort Leavenworth three years before my family. I had never before met Josh, nor had I heard his story. But he had heard mine through mutual friends at Fort Leavenworth.

Three days after my dad was killed, Josh, then a student at K-State, made the two-hour drive from Manhattan to Fort Leavenworth and showed up at my house.

I appreciated each and every person who came over to comfort my family, but before Josh, I never felt anyone could relate to me.

When Josh showed up, it was different. He and I sat at my kitchen table, where we were constantly surrounded by people coming and going, but we just continued to talk.

He talked about what his family went through. He talked about his brothers, his mom, his grandparents and uncles and aunts. He talked about everything, and he was honest when talking about the years following his father’s death.

We had just met, but we had

a bond like longtime friends.

Seeing his success at K-State three years after his dad was killed gave me assurance. Despite how dark my world looked at the end of May 2010, life would get better.

Eventually, Josh and I continued to be friends when I transferred to K-State in the spring of 2011. He was always there to answer my calls or texts regardless of what my questions were. He helped me through the paperwork that came with Veterans Affairs and he introduced me to a few incredible organizations, the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors and Children of Fallen Patriots, that support military kids like us.

Nearly three years later, I’m at the place in the healing process Josh was when he first visited.

Josh graduated from K-State in May 2012. He is now a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army stationed in South Korea after graduating from the Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., in April.

It’s a strange coincidence — the similarities between Josh’s

story and mine.

Three years separated the deaths of our fathers. Three houses separated his old house and mine on post. Three tombstones separate our fathers’ graves at Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery.

I finally understand where Josh was at when he came to visit me that day. I will never really completely heal; my life has just taken on a new normal. I can let my dad’s death hold me back or I can use it as motivation to move forward.

I am moving forward to make my soldier proud.

And now, exactly three years after my dad was killed in action, exactly three years after I became a Gold Star daughter, I’ll be taking that step from college to the real world when I graduate on May 18.

Three years later. Without my hero, my coach, my biggest fan. Without my dad.

Kelly McHugh is a senior in mass communications. Please send comments to news@kstatecollegian.com.

BRIEFS | Olympic athlete dies in accident

Continued from page 1

New York Times article, a worldwide gang of criminals stole \$45 million in mere hours by hacking into a database of prepaid credit cards and then draining cash machines around the globe. According to federal prosecutors, out-moded U.S. card technology may be partly to blame.

Seven people were arrested in the U.S. in connection with the case. One of the suspects was reportedly caught on camera with a backpack full of cash. Others took photos of themselves with stacks of bills.

The Times said that other arrests have been made abroad in the heist, which took place in December 2012 and February 2013.

America’s Cup race boat capsizes, killing one

According to CNN, a Swedish racing boat capsized off the coast of San Francisco during a training run for the annual America’s Cup race, killing one crew member.

Olympic gold medalist Andrew Simpson was fatally injured. CNN said that support crews rushed to the scene, taking Simpson and another crew member to paramedics. CPR was performed on two individuals. On Thursday night, all 11 members of the crew had been found, but their medical statuses were not immediately released to the public.

EULOGY | ‘My mother was like the Midwest weather’

Continued from page 1

and uncles with the news that I came in second place in the St. Ann’s Catholic School Seventh Grade Spelling Bee. “He lost on — oh, what is that darned word? Mamma — mamma ... MARMA-LADE! Hell’s bells, who can spell a word like that? Can you? I can’t. It has three ‘a’ letters, did you know that?”

My mother was like the Midwest weather. She blew hot and cold, one extreme to another. When she was happy, she was hysterically happy. In second grade I wrote a poem called “I Think Mice Are Nice.” That evening mom was in telephone alert mode, contacting everyone in our zip code. She was still telling this story at my 40th birthday party. “He was a writer even back then. I just knew it.”

When she was sad, she was inconsolable. I can still see her kneeling next to the bed the night my younger brother died at 22. She knelt there all evening, crying and praying at the top of her voice. I was as dumbstruck then

at the vastness of her grief as I am now, as a parent, at the boundlessness of her faith. God had taken her child and God would heal her. When she lost another son years later, Chris Chartrand was back on her knees. I think she was so good at praying that God shared things with her that he only shares with special people. Like the true meaning of “hell’s bells” or “heavens to Betsy” (don’t even ask).

God may have soothed my mother’s heart but he was less merciful with her aging body. She cursed the bones and joints that made it painful to garden and cook. Her arthritic back and fingers were naughty children who disobeyed and ignored her. You had to live in our house to understand that my mother could tolerate anything except

being ignored.

There is a hole in my life now where my mother used to be. Sometimes I fill it by leafing through the leather-bound family photo albums that she maintained as meticulously and lovingly as the geraniums in clay pots that lined our cement patio. Squeezing the pages between my fingers I am overcome by the sense that I am stirring the embers of her life, feeling the warmth of her spirit one more time. In every photo she is smiling and radiantly beautiful, just as I remember her.

Much of me is traced to my father, a methodical and practical man. Dad used a string level and tape measure to hang pictures. This drove Mom crazy. The rest of me is my mother. I weep too easily and repeat myself a lot. I

can’t help it; I was born this way.

There’s more I could tell you about my mother; stories that would make you laugh until we both cried — which is precisely the problem. It’s hard to write stuff like this when you can hardly see the keyboard.

All of the above is true but you needn’t accept my word. Visit my mother next time you are in Kansas City and have six or seven hours to kill. Mom loves conversation. For crying out loud, however, don’t mention that you read her obituary in the paper. She’s 89 and very much alive. I have elbow bruises to prove it.

David Chartrand is a graduate teaching assistant in mass communications. Please send comments to news@kstatecollegian.com.

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